(b) if so, the details of the same, decisions taken in the meeting and status of implementation of the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision with regard to sale was reached in the said meeting.

National Pharmaceutical Authority

1841. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Pharmaceutical Authority and merge the existing NPPA with this proposed Authority as has been recommended by a high powered committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Authority would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Task force under the Chairmanship of Dr.Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. The Task Force has recommended, *inter alia*, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT). The proposed NADT would integrate the officers of the Drugs Controller General of India, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the National Phamaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), along with all the powers and functions of these bodies.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a view would be taken regarding the setting up of the National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics.

Profit margin on Generic Medicines to retailers

1842. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pharma companies are giving huge margins to the extent of 2000 per cent to retailers on their generic medicines; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stop this practice and save the poor patients?